

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 2 December 2008 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), John W. Flynn, Wallace Gernt, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Robert J. Quigley, D.C., (Chair)

Excused: Edward F. Almon, Amy Lapierre, Robert Ricci

Not Present: Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D. Robert Whiteside

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Stacey Pabst (Intern), Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

Public: Attached

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. Minutes of the Project Review Committee-I meeting of 7 October 2008 were adopted as submitted. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor with none opposed (5-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almon, Gernt, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the Change Order Request of **Miriam Hospital** [Lifespan Corporation] to the 27 October 2004 Certificate of Need to Construct Three Floors to House Medical/Surgical Nursing Units, Upgrade the Emergency Department, and Consolidate and Upgrade Diagnostic and Patient Treatment Areas.

Dr. Hittner, President of Miriam Hospital, reviewed presentation and noted that 25%-28% of ED patients are admitted to the hospital. It was noted that Miriam has 90 days cash on hand. Borrowing \$24 million would add 8 days cash on hand (\$3 million = 1 day) to the Rhode Island Obligated Group. Mr. Flynn noted that the times were unstable for issuing bonds. Mr. Gernt was

concerned about the impact on the healthcare system. The applicant noted that there has been a 15%-16% loss in endowment/investments but not in operations.

Mr. Gernt questioned the amount of the change order cost overrun.

Mr. Madden requested more information to delineate the differences between the original CON approval and the proposed change order.

Mr. Lonardo, representative of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, requested that the applicant provide to the Committee ED trends including 'left without being seen' rates.

The Chair noted that a site visit will be scheduled to Miriam Hospital. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist